California GARDEN

JULY—AUGUST 1984
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Collector's Issue

ANNIVERSARY

HORTICULTURE CALENDAR

June 14 through July 1	*CALIFORNIA GARDEN EXHIBIT & MAGAZINE SALE* *Southern California Exposition, Garden Section* *Del Mar, Calif. Daily: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
Jun 26 thru Aug 26	*MAJOR ANSEL ADAMS PHOTOGRAPHIC ART EXHIBITION* *Museum of Photographic Arts, Balboa Park, San Diego* *Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* *Thurs: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Closed Mondays)*
Jul 8	*SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY SPECIMEN BLOOM SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego* *Sun: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Free*
Jul 15	*THE GARDEN CLUB OF GENERAL DYNAMICS/CONVAIR 34TH SUMMER SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego Majorca Room* *Sun: 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Free*
JUL 21, 22	*SAN DIEGO GESNERIAD SOCIETY 8TH ANNUAL SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego* *Sat: Noon to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free*
Aug 4, 5	*SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego Majorca Room* *Sat: 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free*
Aug 18, 19	*SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY SIXTH ANNUAL SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego* *Sat: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free*
Aug 18, 19	*SAN DIEGO PALM SOCIETY "GREEN THUMB" SHOW* *San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, Calif.* *Sat. & Sun: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
Aug 25	*SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY "GREEN THUMB" SHOW* *San Diego Wild Animal Park, Escondido, Calif.* *Sat: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
Aug 25, 26	*SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE TENTH ANNUAL SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego Majorca Room* *Sat. & Sun: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Free*
Sep 1, 2	*SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURISTS' FIRST SHOW* *Casa del Prado, Majorca Room, Balboa Park, San Diego* *Sat: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sun: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free*

HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY

San Diego Floral Association & Garden Center maintains a horticultural library in the Casa del Prado building, Balboa Park, San Diego, this is open to anyone interested in research, or browsing. The library is open daily, Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — (619) 232-5762.

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Selecting the articles to be reprinted in this anniversary issue was a tantalizing, yet frustrating experience for the editorial staff. The wealth of superb articles, as factual and timely as when they were written by the many renowned horticulturists and dedicated contributors, was overwhelming.

All botanical names have been updated (Hortus Third), with the original name in parenthesis. Sections of some articles have been omitted.

FRONT COVER: Drawing by Marj Mastro, who has graciously contributed artwork since 1975, is an artist with the San Diego Unified School District.

BACK COVER: A reproduction of the first cover on *California Garden* magazine — August 1909.

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(SEE PAGE 131)

KATE O. SESSIONS
FOUNDING MEMBER
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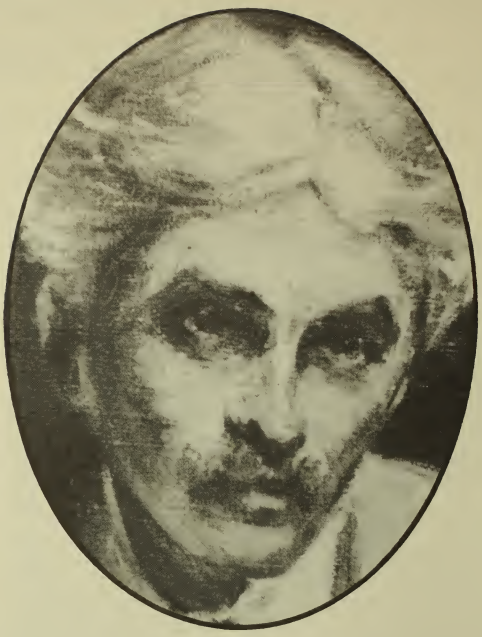
CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE 1909



ALFRED D. ROBINSON
FOUNDER
SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION 1907
CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE 1909

EDITORIAL

Seventy-five years ago in July 1909, the first issue of California Garden *magazine was published by the San Diego Floral Association with Alfred D. Robinson as editor. He was a man of ideals and vision, and had the drive to get things done.*

For the next ten years, Mr. Robinson guided the Garden*, as he always referred to the magazine, through exciting times — the 1915 Panama-California Exposition, and the trying years of WWI — never losing his dream of making San Diego a more beautiful city, horticulturally. Kate O. Sessions also shared this dream and contributed informative and innovative articles from 1909 to 1939.*

California Garden *and the Floral Association have worked faithfully to fulfill the objectives as set forth in the foreword of the first issue. Not only did they motivate San Diegans to beautify their city, they provided the forum for dedicated horticulturists to share their knowledge and expertise with all gardeners, not only in Southern California, but in areas having a similar climate, worldwide.*

As you read these pages, recapture the hopes, the spirit, the devotion, and the enthusiasm expressed by these dedicated people. This is the legacy with which we have been entrusted. Let us look forward to the next seventy-five years with the vision and ideals of the founders of California Garden.

THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association

FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR — FIVE CENTS PER COPY

Vol. 1 — San Diego, California, July, 1909 — No. 1

FOREWORD

The California Garden makes its bow to the good folks of San Diego, with this, its first issue. It desires to be confidential, and frankly state how it comes to be published, and what it hopes to accomplish. In the first place, it is the official organ of the San Diego Floral Association, the objects of which are all towards a more beautiful city, a city of gardens—taking advantage of its wonderful climatic conditions and realising some part of its possibilities floriculturally. In addition to faithfully recording the doings of the association, it proposes to give practical and timely information with regard to the flower garden and the vegetable patch. It will tell each month how to take care of that which is already growing, and what to plant beside. And the information will be furnished by local authorities from their own experience. Indigenous plants of merit will be dealt with in special illustrated articles, and the latest introductions in the floral world, worthy of a trial in this locality, will be brought to the attention of its readers. Though the publications devoted to gardening in the United States are most numerous and meritorious, they utterly fail as guides in San Diego. No rain in summer, no snow or frost in winter, a green and growing land at Christmastide, entirely upset their calculations. Florally San Diego is a law unto itself, and this magazine hopes to emphasize the workings of that law. The California Garden has already secured the support of most of the local authorities upon subjects within its province. It has in preparation articles of great interest relating to local plants, shrubs and flowers, and it intends to open a query box for the many new-comers, and almost as numerous old residents, who just want to know.

Like all the activities of the San Diego Floral Association, this, its organ, is engineered by volunteers. Its object is purely to make more effective the efforts of the association, so the subscription for a year has been fixed at the nominal sum of twenty-five cents, in the expectation that its circulation will be large and widespread. It should be in every house, whether there is a garden attached or not.

JUNE 1910 EDITORIAL: With this number the *California Garden* completes its first year. It is not for the *Garden* to say the many flattering things it thinks about itself, though such a course would be fully justified by journalistic precedent. Let its friends do the shouting, and show their appreciation by a prompt renewal of their subscriptions.

It is usual for a publication on its birthday to take its readers into its confidence as to what is intended for the coming year. In this respect also the *Garden* must be unusual. It has no paid writers or other salaried officials of any description. It is published by a body of lovers of garden things, purely for the purpose of spreading that love, and those who contribute matter for its columns are actuated by the same sentiment. It does not pay for itself in spite of all this volunteer labor; it was not expected that it would. For these reasons its program is dependent upon the measure of its support. If as good progress be made in the next year as during the past one, its second birthday should see it a larger magazine covering its field more thoroughly. In any case it will maintain its present standard. It should be always borne in mind that *California Garden* is a part of Floral Association, and like it exists for the betterment of the community generally along its particular lines of effort. It wants to help to make San Diego a garden spot in a summer land. Is it too much to ask all and everyone to hold up its hands, that its work may be more effective? Can it not be a potent factor in preparing the way for the 1915 exposition in whatever form the latter may eventually take?

June 1911: With this issue the *Garden* is two years old. . .and has grown in influence with age until it is now recognized as one of the important and substantial publications of Southern California. Its subscribers reach even beyond the great oceans, and newspapers and magazines think it of sufficient importance to copy its articles.

This association and this magazine are doing an excellent work for Southern California. They deserve all the support they have received in the past, and more for the future in order that they may keep pace with the growth and development of our city, county, and state.

[ED: ALL THE STATEMENTS IN THE FOREWORD AND THE ABOVE EDITORIALS ARE AS TRUE TODAY AS WHEN THEY WERE WRITTEN, EXCEPT WE ARE NOT PREPARING FOR AN EXPOSITION—AT LEAST WE DON'T THINK WE ARE.]

ROMNEYA COULTERI, OR MATILIJA POPPY

July 1909

by K. O. Sessions

WATERCOLOR BY A. R. VALENTIEN

Exceeding all other poppies in the world is this half shrubby, perennial-rooted plant, six to fifteen feet high, with sage green leaves and immense bright white, crumpled silken flowers, six to nine inches in diameter. It is a native to the ravines and stream banks of Southern California, from Santa Barbara county to Ensenada, Lower California. It was discovered about 1832 by Dr. Thomas Coulter, and was dedicated to his astronomer friend, Dr. Rommey Robinson. The original of this sketch was a stray seedling in a San Diego garden about fourteen years ago. It differs from the two types growing wild about Otay and Jamul and other sections. Note the very smooth and pointed bud, the half-opened bud, the very large stamen cluster, and the large and deeply cleft leaves. The other varieties have rounded hairy buds smaller leaves, and there is never seen a half-opened bud; the flowers have a more circular apperance and are not so large.

The *Romneya* is difficult to propagate and transplant. About October 15 the plants should be severely trimmed back and after the first rains, or November lst, transplant those that are to be moved. They should not be moved unless absolutely necessary. They spread and increase by underground shoots until a clump will soon occupy a large space. They may also be propagated by root cuttings in the fall in the nursery.

It is possible to cut half-blown buds, like the subject illustrated and ship as far as San Francisco, and they will open up large and perfect.

Every Southern California garden should grow this plant, and it is to be hoped that the nucleus now in the City Park (Balboa Park) will some day occupy at least ten acres.

This poppy is the treasured plant of a few English gardeners, and it has been grown in Vermont for three years with careful winter protection. It thrives in the light soil of Coronado (California), as it requires a well-drained location.

This flower is one of the most difficult to paint, and is only occasionally well done. San Diego's artist Mr. A. R. Valentien, is one who can equal nature, and his sketches of this flower will help bring fame to this deserving queen of wild flowers.

OLD SEEDS

November 1930

Many seeds germinate best after they have become old. The beautiful Matilija Poppy. . .bears seeds which should be at least four years old before planting.

Nature has a plan, she coats or covers these seeds with a glutinous substance that forms an almost impervious surface. The average seed, if washed around in mountain streams or exposed to fire, would be killed, but not Matilija seed. It is simply prepared for germination. . .

AVOCADOS FOR HOME GARDENS

By F. W. POPENO, Altadena

A FINE THICK-SKINNED AVOCADO, SHOWING A GOOD PROPORTION OF FLESH TO SEED. SUCH A FRUIT AS THIS WILL MAKE A MEAL FOR TWO PERSONS. Photo courtesy of West India Gardens.

Whether he be city dweller or suburbanite, almost every resident of southern California is interested in the subject of fruit trees for the home garden. Even though the ground at his command be limited to the confines of a city lot, there is usually room for a few trees to supply the table with home grown fruit. . . .

Here is where the avocado offers exceptional attractions, for experience in and around Los Angeles has not only shown that it will withstand more neglect than other fruit and still produce abundantly, but at the same time keep up a good appearance and be of great value as an ornamental tree. Few of our ornamental trees are of greater merit than the avocado. . .

As with the olive and many other subtropical fruits to which the northern palate has not yet become accustomed, the taste for the avocado* has sometimes to be acquired. . . .

* The first advertisement for avocado trees appeared in November 1912.

Mr. Popeno (†) was a horticulturist interested in making new introductions available for the home gardener through his West India Nursery in Altadena, California.

May–June 1978

AVOCADO TREES

by George James

THE AVOCADO IS AN EVERGREEN tree native to the tropical regions of the American continents and the nearby islands. . . .Some who have planted avocados have been most successful, producing more than enough fruit for their families' use and having some to share with friends. Trees planted by others have died before they reached the fruiting stage. Experts tell us that most of the avocado trees that die do so because of overwatering which causes root decay and subsequent death of the tree. . . .

Climate

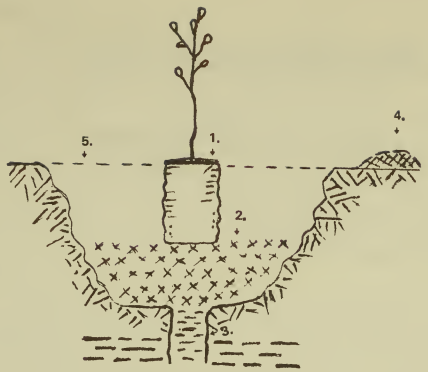
Avocados should be planted in a nearly frost-free location. Hardiness varies from variety to variety, but all kinds will suffer if the temperature remains below 30° F. for very long. . . .

Soil

Soil 3 feet deep is sufficient for good root development provided it does not have a hard layer of soil below that would interfere with good drainage. . . .The sides and bottom of the planting hole should be left rough (see illustration), so that the improved soil used to fill the hole will mix with the surrounding soil. Then a small hole, about a foot in diameter, is dug through the hard layer if any, and this is filled with a mixture of sand and a fine organic material, such as peat moss. It has been proven that a fine mixture works better than a coarse aggregate.

Planting

Avocado trees can grow to be 30 feet tall and will at maturity spread as far, so it is well to keep these facts in mind when planting. Set the trees far enough apart or far enough from fences or buildings so they have room to grow without crowding.



TYPICAL PLANTING HOLE

Grafic by Colin Macdonald

1. Balled avocado - Place about 1-inch above garden level.
2. Improved soil from hole - lightly tamped.
3. Drain hole (if required) - Dig through any hard layers of soil and refill with sand and peatmoss.
4. Dike formed from poorer soil from bottom of hole.
5. Level of garden soil - Refill around balled plant with improved garden soil, well compacted in layers.

Irrigation

Newly planted trees will need frequent watering until they have developed a root system that reaches into the surrounding soil. Once established, they should be irrigated as they need water. . . .Avocado trees have their roots close to the surface of the soil, seldom rooting deeper than 3 feet, and less if there is a hard layer, so only enough water should be applied to wet the soil to the depth the roots have developed. Once or twice a year, during the warm months, a heavier than usual irrigation can be given to flush the salts, from the irrigation water, that accumulate in the soil below the root zone. . . .

Mulch

Cultivation can damage the surface roots of avocados so it is not recommended, instead use a mulch of organic material. Start mulching as soon as the tree is planted and add material as needed to maintain a mulch several inches thick. Leaves are shed all year around, and on mature trees these do much to sustain the desired level of mulch. A mulch will save water, reduce weed growth, improve the tilth of the soil, and create desirable growing conditions for the surface roots.

Feeding

A consistent feeding program will enable young trees to develop quickly and mature trees to bear larger crops. The first year or two after planting the trees can be given three or four light feedings each year while larger trees are usually fed twice a year—in February and in June. Nitrogen is the principal plant food element they need. . . .Fertilizer should be used as directed on the package, applied to moist soil, and watered in at once. The fertilizer known as citrus and avocado food can be used. In addition to nitrogen it supplies phosphorus and potash, which are usually not needed for avocados, but will do no harm. Animal manure put on in the fall will break down during the winter, contributing to the mulch and supplying food in the spring. Some growers use manure in the fall and one of the above commercial preparations in June. Avocados may suffer from iron shortage or chlorosis, indicated by yellow leaves in which the veins remain green. It is corrected by adding iron sulphate or chelated iron, which is iron plus chelating elements that keep the iron available to the plants over a longer period of time than iron sulphate.

Pruning

Avocados do not need much pruning, only that necessary to remove branches that lie on the ground or those that grow beyond an acceptable outline for the tree. If, for any reason, an avocado is pruned so that interior branches are exposed to direct sunlight, these should be painted with whitewash or some other acceptable material that will protect these branches from sunburn.

Varieties

Trees sold by nurseries are created by budding a scion of a known desirable variety of avocado onto a seedling rootstock. The resulting tree will be just like the parent variety. An avocado will start easily from seed, however, it may be as long as 7 years before such a seedling will bear and no one can foretell what kind of fruit it will produce.

There are many budded varieties of avocados, each differing from the other in habit of growth, the season the fruit matures, the color or size of the fruit, or the trees' hardiness. Some varieties are:

'Little Cado' is a patented dwarf variety that is said to grow from 8 to 10 feet tall and bear fruit that is green in color and ripens during the summer months.

'Bacon' is more upright than most, stands cold weather better, and bears more heavily close to the sea than many others. The fruit is green in color, medium size, and ripens November to March.

'Fuerte' is much used by commercial growers; the fruit is green, pear shaped, and richly flavored. The tree is spreading and the fruit ripens November to June. It flowers about the first of the year and if the weather is cold there will be a poor set of fruit, therefore it is more satisfactory inland than along the coast.

'Hass' grows to be a large and spreading tree that bears large, purple-skinned fruit that ripens April to October and does better in a warm location.

'Mexicola' is probably the most cold hardy variety. It bears consistently and heavily, the fruit is small, dark

(Continued on Page 119)

Re-Discovering Torrey Pines

Written and Illustrated by
GUY L. FLEMING

We left the Santa Fe station on the 4:08 train. Our equipment consisted of two well-filled knapsacks, flower presses and tickets to Sorrento, and later we learned that we followed the same route taken by D. Parry on his last visit to the pines in 1883.

On arriving at Sorrento we took the El Camino Real, the old highway of the Padres; this we traveled for about two miles, when we left it and headed west across a plain in order to reach the new state highway. And on this plain we were treated to the sight of some of the finest and largest specimens of native shrubs and flowering plants we had ever seen. *Erigonum*, wild buckwheat, five feet high and fifteen feet across; *Isomeris arborea*, bladder pod; *Hosakia*, wild broom, very much above the average. Among the flower heads more than an inch across; *Antirrhinum nuttallanum (A. vagans)*, snapdragon, with a growth of six feet; *Calycadenia tenella (Hemizonia tenella)*, one of the tar weeds, had extra large flowers, and the little purple spot on each petal was very pretty against the white.

Along the grade we found about a dozen *Dendromecon rigida (rigidum)*, the Mexican Poppy Tree. Some were eight or ten feet high, but the majority had been badly marred by the road makers. This last holds true in regard to the pines—those growing close to the road being more or less mutilated.

We expected to find water at the top of the grade, but on arriving found that the pipe had been taken up. We inquired of an auto party if they had seen anything of a wandering water stand, and were told it was about three-quarters of a mile up the road. The sun had set and we were powerfully hungry, and we had planned on a bed of pine needles, but water we had to have, so we hiked on until we found it. We made our camp some distance off the road, built our fire-place on a rocky shelf, and located the softest place we could find in a small clearing for our bed. Then we got supper—as we now had water.

The water is carried out along this road to be used for sprinkling. There is about seven miles of this pipe, I should judge, and between the city farm and the Torrey Pine Park very little water is used in a day from a four-inch pipe. Our water stand was at the end of the line and the water was very "rich," resembling chocolate in color and texture. After considerable boiling and skimming we got it weak enough for cooking purposes, and by flavoring it with tea found it to be a refreshing drink.

While we are seated about the campfire we might hear the story of these pines. It is an ideal night for such a story, the sky is clear of clouds, nothing to obstruct the light from the low hanging stars, a soft east wind brings us the fragrance of the blue sage; we hear the dull roar of the waves beating against the cliffs and at intervals the heavy "boom-boom" of a large wave climbing higher than its comrades. On a bluff across the canyon a lone pine is outlined against the sky.

And first I might tell you the origin of the pine. . .

But we are to hear of the rarest of pines, one whose past is as a sealed book. It has some of the characteristics of *Pinus pinea*, one being the tardy maturity and retention of seed. Another is its delight in living in exposed places. In fact it is doubtful if any other pine would survive such buffeting by the sea winds.

In other respects it stands alone among conifers, it bears the largest flowers, has the hardest nuts, and the strongest leaves. No other species is found within fifty miles of it.

But there are only a few of these pines left. Probably not more than 200 in all. The young trees are less in number than the older trees, from which it might be inferred that the species is slowly giving way, and if not protected, will soon become extinct; that is, the original forest. Of course the species will not be lost for seed collectors have sent it to all parts of the globe, and hundreds have been planted in California. But away from their beloved wind swept cliffs they become pyramidal and as stately as any other well ordered pine, and have no resemblance to the grotesque old warriors flaunting their green banner on the bluffs above the sea. It is rather strange that not until a hundred years after San Diego was founded was this peculiar maritime pine truly discovered as a species and given a name.

In the spring of 1850 the attention of Dr. C. C. Parry, who was connected with the Mexican Boundary Survey, was called to a species of pine growing at the mouth of Soledad Valley, By Dr. J. L. LeConte, then staying in San Diego, who asked, "What pine is growing near the ocean beach in that locality?"

I will quote from a paper read by Dr. Parry before the San Diego Society of Natural History, November 2, 1883. "I had been ordered by Major W. H. Emory to make a geological examination of the reported coal deposits on the ocean bluffs above Soledad."

"In making a section of these strata it was necessary to follow up some of the sharp ravines that here debouch on the ocean beach, and here (possibly to the neglect of strict geological duties) my attention was taken up by this singular and unique maritime pine, which with its strong clusters of terminal leaves and its distorted branches were loaded down with ponderous cones within easy reach of botanical clutch. From the notes and collections, both of Dr. LeConte and the writer, there made, a description was drawn up dedicating this well-marked new species to an honored friend and instructor, Dr. John Torrey, of New York, as *Pinus Torreyana*, thus commemorating one of our most honored botanists by association with a tree peculiar to the Pacific coast, in a region which has been so often enriched by his early botanical labors as collaborator. . . .Thirty years after this first discovery, in the fall of 1880, the writer visited this locality for the second time, accompanied by the well known botanist, Dr. George Engelmann, of St. Louis. At that time more complete examinations were made, and sections of a trunk over one foot in diameter were procured and sent to the Forest Commission of the Tenth United States census."

While speaking of pines I might tell you that the next rarest species is also found in San Diego County, and is named botanically *Pinus quadrifolia*, Parry pinon *(Pinus Parryana)*, in honor of Dr. Parry, who first discovered it during the survey for the Mexican boundary. The common name is "pinon" or nut pine, and it is sparsely found on the Cuyamaca mountains and south into Lower California.

The fire has burned low as we take a greasewood torch and find our way up to our blankets. We were up in the morning as soon as the birds began to stir and after breakfasting explored some of the canyons leading down toward the ocean. The sides of these canyons are very much broken, almost perpendicular, the floors are quite level and the native growth so rank that in some places we were unable to get through without a brush-hook, so we would turn back to another canyon that looked easy.

We saw so much of interest that we wished for a month in which to explore this park. Nearly every turn opened up a new view; we found several plants unknown to the botanist, and new forms of known ones. Above all, we were impressed with the possibility of this tract as a wild garden. There are two complete associations, the seaside and mesa and in addition the rarest of pines. And we expressed the hope that the Floral Association could go behind some plan that had to do with the improvement and protection of the Torrey Pines Park as a National Park, and we resolved to do all in our power to interest the members of this matter. . . .(Ed: The Floral Association did lend their support in 1916 and in later years. Torrey Pines is now a State Reserve.)

TORREY PINE AGAINST THE SKY

Courtesy Title Insurance & Trust Co.

I will conclude with the last paragraph of Dr. Parry's paper: "Only a short time since, (1883), the writer again visited the locality, aided by the liberality of the California Southern Railroad Co., whose track makes this fine resort easily accessible by barely an hour's travel from San Diego. Here, seeking shelter from the fervid rays of a February sun under the scant shade of a decrepit forest monarch, listening to the sullen dash of the Pacific waves against the bold shores, among other thoughts suggested by the inspiring scene and its past associations, one floats upward like drifting seaweed and finds fitting expression here. Why should not San Diego, within whose corporate limits this straggling remnant of a past age finds a last lingering resting place, secure from extermination this remarkable and unique Pacific coast production so singularly confined within its boundaries; dedicating this spot of ground forever to the cause of scientific instruction and recreation, where wiser generations than ours may sit beneath its ampler shade, and listening to the same musical waves, thank us for 'sparing this tree.'"

Guy L. Fleming (†), naturalist and conservationist, administered Torrey Pines Park from 1921 until his death in 1960. He wrote on many subjects for *California Garden* from 1916 to 1956.

TWO USEFUL MANZANITAS

by Lester Rowntree

There are, native to California, two delightful little manzanitas seldom found in gardens. Both are dwarf spreading species, especially desirable for large rock gardens, for the edges of woods, for covering banks and for the types of foundation planting which call for something low, evergreen and informal. Where the summers are hot,and light very strong, these little manzanitas should be given half or three-fourths shade. They will happily endure sea air, wind and poor stony soil but rebel against heavy damp ground and intensely strong sunlight. Both of these arctostaphylos species are endemic to central California. They are such desirable little shrubs that it is surprising to find them so little known.

Arctostaphylos hookeri forms natural colonies in the coastal woods and on the bluffs of the San Francisco region and for about one hundred miles southward. Where beaten upon by ocean winds it lies prostrate but in the shelter of the adjacent woods it grows in dense masses a foot or two high. Along the coast it is particularly attractive, sprawling loosely over the cliffs and throwing its little crooked red-brown branches across the sand or rocks. The tiny shining leaves are rather scattered and show the lovely stems to good advantage. In early spring the plants bear many clusters of waxy-white flowers, of the characteristic urn-shape of all the heath family, and follows them with hundreds of tiny rust-brown berries.

A. pumila has a more limited habitat and is found only on the Monterey Peninsula. It grows best in sandy soil where it makes dense round masses six or more feet in diameter and growing to 18 inches or 2 feet high at the center. As the stems root at the joints they can be easily propagated. *A. pumila* has a small gray-green leaf and white flowers. Its berries are the prettiest of all the manzanitas—white, pink-cheeked and remaining plump and fresh for a long time. This little spreading shrub is most valuable and attractive and should be in frequent use for holding loose banks and dunes where the sand has a slight addition of humus.

All the manzanitas are evergreens. This genus has many delightful species, some absolutely prostrate such as the world-wide *A. uve-ursi* and the lovely Pine-mat Manzanita, *A. nevadensis* of our Sierras. Others, small-leaved manzanitas like *A. myrtifolia* and *A. nummularia* form bushes several feet high. Each of these last three species is limited in its habitat. Then there are the large-leaved bush or tree-like manzanitas with which we are more familiar. All have their gardening uses and are coming more and more into recognition and favor.

SEPTEMBER WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

September 1932

by Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

(ED: BEFORE DAILY WEATHER REPORTS WERE COMMON ON RADIO, MR. BLAKE'S WEATHER REPORT WAS A REGULAR FEATURE IN THIS MAGAZINE.)

This is the month when the probabilities of hot days are at the highest. Beginning about the middle of the month, warm, dry weather may be expected at any time. Meteorological records show that in the city one-third of the days with temperatures above 90 occurred in September. However, as all high temperatures in San Diego are accompanied by extremely low relative humidity and a brisk circulation of the air, the weather during their prevalency is not enerating or debilitating. . . .

As the rainy season does not begin until November or even December some years, precipitation continues negligible. The fire hazard in the county is at its peak, and during periods of high barometer over the Plateau regions, when strong, dessicating winds prevail over the entire county, the humidity will remain at the danger point for several days at a time. Following the long, dry summer, this month is normally conducive to the quick ignition and rapid spreading of fires.

More clear days and nights may be expected and the early morning cloudiness of the three preceding months has a tendency to become less frequent, particularly during the latter half of the month.

Dwarf Flowering Eucalypti and Rare Grevilleas

by Hugh Evans

We in California in my opinion, have not paid enough attention to the dwarf-growing brilliant-flowered Eucalypti of which there are a number of species recently introduced into this country. They are so particularly well adapted to park and garden work, even to small gardens, that they should be used to a much larger extent than they are. The following species we have, bloomed at our place the last two years.

Eucalyptus caesia—a dwarf weeping Eucalyptus, rough russet brown trunk, white limbs and branches, long narrow grey leaves which droop gracefully on long pendulous branches which are literally covered with large clusters of good sized pink flowers with yellow anthers. The branches hang in very beautiful festoons down to the ground. An extremely graceful and beautiful tree.

Eucalyptus erythrocorys—stronger, more erect-growing species than *E. caesia*; white trunk; flower buds which grow in clusters are a brilliant scarlet with large golden blooms.

Eucalyptus pyriformis—slender growing dwarf tree, good sized drooping clusters of very large crimson flowers with golden anthers. These flowers frequently measure three inches across. A very beautiful and spectacular tree and quite distinct.

Eucalyptus steedmanii—small weeping tree with beautiful golden yellow flowers. This species has only recently been discovered.

We have six or seven other species which have not yet bloomed with us but which we are looking forward to seeing in flower. I am convinced that as these particular kinds become better known they will be extensively planted. Owing to the fact that they do not attain the size and girth and spread of so many of the older kinds, they will not prove a detriment to the garden and robbers of soil that the varieties ordinarily encountered have been.

The Grevillea family is another one which has been very much neglected in this country.

Grevillea thelemanniana is to my mind one of the most attractive of our small flowering shrubs and the specimens growing in Miss Session's garden are an object lesson as to the treatment they requite.

Grevillea obtusifolia is an evergreen trailing shrub, makes a wonderful ground cover and has a bloom very similar to *G. thelemanniana;* a splendid thing trailing down banks and rockeries.

Grevillea rosmarinifolia is a bushy, compact growing species, very deep green foliage rather like a Rosemary from which it derives its name, and covered with racemes of pink and white flowers.

Grevillea paniculata, evergreen shrub with a spreading bushy habit. In the spring is a perfect sheet of feathery white flowers. With us it blooms more or less on and off throughout the year.

All of these four Grevilleas are particularly well adapted to our gardens. I am inclined to think the majority of Grevilleas do better where the soil is not too heavy and where the drainage is good.

I saw a planting of young trees of four or five of these varieties recently in Santa Barbara and they were extremely beautiful. They require little or no attention but repay any extra care which is given to them.

Hugh Evans, a horticulturist and nurseryman, introduced hundreds of plants to southern California. He wrote many articles for *California Garden* between 1931 and 1953.

GOOD TASTE IN THE GARDEN by MARION ROBINSON

September 1909

Why is it that people of real culture and good taste display such a woeful lack of it in their gardens?. . .Seeds are so fascinatingly cheap and we become most enthusiastic over the garden we shall have next summer, and order recklessly. Here is where we need self-restraint. Leave the most trying color combinations; be abstemious and select six good varieties instead of twenty, and let them be of colors that harmonize. The garden as a whole should be a picture as well as the individual bed. . . .

No garden is too small to have a bit of individuality in it, and this must come from the brain and heart of the maker of the garden. . . .whatever we choose to create will be an inspiration to our friends and means more to us. . .

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What Do You Plant in the Shade

Summer 1947

by Ada Perry

It was a bit disconcerting to be asked suddenly after five years, "What can you plant in the shade? We've got a shady spot and not a thing in it."

Not since leaving the air and the newspaper column had I been pinged with that old favorite in the way of garden queries. But it was all right, and kind of nice, too, after I got to rummaging through files and starting wheels to running again. The questioner was a sorority sister in San Diego's Alpha Chapter of Phi Epsilon Phi. She has a husband, two children and a house and garden. I don't know if she uses that tooth paste or not, but she has a lovely smile and she's right on the ball every minute, typical of young matrons these days. I'd "asked for" the question at sorority meeting by announcing my "engagement" as editor of the *California Garden* and passing stick candy!

So, what do you plant in the shade?

Well, get the ground ready in the shade place, first. If it has been a neglected spot, ten to one the ground will be packed hard and need airing and turning over. You can dig old manure and bonemeal and leaf mold into it. So many shady plants like leaf mold, and that's natural isn't it? The trouble with shade spots around homes is that the buildings created them artificially. In the wild, trees and bushes create and shed their leaves to the soil below. The plants that come to live beneath them are the ones that thrive on leaf mold and coolness.

Holiday Plants

One of the simplest sources of plants for the shady side are the gift plants that come with holiday greetings. Hydrangeas, azaleas, fuchsias, camellias, and begonias all come into the home with holiday wrappings and cards. Set them out in that shady spot. Even fancy cyclamen and caladiums have been planted when the gift occasion is past, and been found to last longer than in the house.

You do draw the line once in a while, as in the case of poinsettias. A gift poinsettia should be given more sun when it is grown in the yard, through this isn't saying poinsettias won't accept some shade. You can see all over town that they do.

If someone is so generous as to present you with a lovely orange-blooming clivia, you have another fine plant for the shade, one that will last for years and years.

Begonias and Ferns

When concentrating on that shady spot, go into the subject of begonias and ferns a little deeper. There's more than one kind of each, you know, and a specializer in these plants will be pleased to show you at least half

Cartoon by Bob Fassett–Courtesy *The San Diego Union*

dozen kinds of each you never even noticed before. That's a fact.

We go along for years thinking begonias, ferns–yes I know they'll grow in the shade but it seems to me I want something different. Well, you have borders, fillers, and backgrounds in just these plants, and it will take just a little investigation to collect a bed of them that will cause your neighbors to regard you with awe and respect.

I never will forget the look on a fern dealer's face when I started exclaiming over the numbers of different kinds of ferns, all shapes and sizes, that were growing right there in front of me in a lath house. She said, kind of spunkily, that they all did well here, and in outside beds, too, and that people who knew about them really had something when they planted them.

It was illuminating, though a trifle disconcerting and I took refuge behind the excuse that I don't care

much for ferns. But between you and me, they did look awfully interesting, especially the ones that didn't resemble brake at all. (Ed: Ada grew up in the state of Washington where brake ferns were considered a weed.)

Annuals and Perennials

Of course you know that you can fill a shady corner in the winter season with cinerarias, forget-me-nots, and lobelia. They are annuals and don't last very long but they reseed. No guarantee goes with the forget-me-nots. Seems to me they can forget like everything here, sometimes.

A perennial fan can go in for foxglove, columbine, and violets which should all be started now, by the way, from plants and with hopes that they will bloom next spring.

The fairy primrose or *Primula malacoides*, will produce pink and white mists of bloom in spring in a place it likes and reseed. Then there's coral bells, proper name *Heuchera* (you cough it to pronounce), and a most beautiful pink thing known as *Anemone japonica* and not in the least resembling our rainbow anemones from the bulbs like large raisins. This *A. japonica* has flowers something on the order of small pink cosmos in sprays, only far more elegant.

Then there's lavender flowering *Thalictrum* with foliage like columbine, and the tall *Rehmannia* with pink, foxglovelike flowers. I'll apologize for these last two names but I've never heard common ones.

For a really tough shady spot, try *Caladium* or elephant's ear, the classic *Acanthus*, wandering Jew, and *Vinca* or periwinkle. If these won't grow, we'll have to think of something else, I don't know what.

Shrubs and Vines

There are three very pretty little shrubs for shade, the *Justicia brandegeana (Beloperone guttata)* or shrimp plant, the *Chorizema* with little holly leaves and little orange and scarlet pansy-blooms, and the nandina which will have red foliage and red berries.

Two plain bread-and-butter shade shrubs are the *Pittosporum tobira* and the *Raphiolepis*. The *P. tobira* is one of those shiny leaved plants so common here with orange-scented flowers. It's low growing and its flowers are in the flat clusters. Raphiolepis has severe dark green leaves and almost black berries. But its white flowers give one a feeling of hawthorne. (Ed: Now there are also pink cultivars.)

There are some really choice vines for shade, though if the spot has poor soil seems to me you'd better choose ivy. If there are possibilities, however, consider sky flower, *Thunbergia grandiflora*, with the big blue, white throated blooms. Mm-mm! A golden blooming vine of the special kind is the *Hibbertia scandens* or guinea-vine. I'm sure this name refers to the golden guineas of the pirates' days.

Your Carolina jessamine with golden blooms is recommended for shade. The name is *Gelsemium sempervirens* if you want to be sure of getting the right one. And of course that couldn't be anything else.

Another twister is the star jasmine, flowers frosty white, curled and fragrant, Show its name to dealers only: *Trachelospermum jasminoides*. They are more or less inured to things like that.

Ada Perry (†), a former editor and writer for *California Garden* from 1927 to 1979, was a well known lecturer and garden columnist for the Sunday *San Diego Union.*

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Of The Earth—A Part

by Roland S. Hoyt

This is Memorial Day—I remember. As I bother about in the garden there are thoughts of Woody and Homer. . . .

Here are earthy things to play with. There is sunshine and a pleasant breeze with its mockingbird singing. Attend and I will tell you of a round dozen little plants to distract you; for you to see sometime and ultimately to try in your own ground where it is "green calm below, blue quietness above," if you look.

It's a little bellflower carpeting the ground, *Campanula cochleariifolia*, a tiny little plant that tugs at your withinside, a close mat much less than an inch through, of a bright vivid green. The nodding bells, blue or white, stand 3 to 4 inches above and appear in early summer. This is of vigorous growth, practical and easy to grow in the sun along the coast, but with a little shade inland. The mat of a well established plant pushes out rapidly to 12 or 15 inches across, within the first year. Some rosettes may prove too exuberant and rise up out of the plane desired. Pinch them out to start new plants.

Next comes *Stachys corsica*. . .a stand of closely packed crinkly leaves a quarter of an inch wide and three-eights long. The flower is large for such a low plant—flat splashes of color against the green, pure white in the sun, pinkish in the shade or during the winter. . . .probably should have the drainage of a light sandy soil.

Veronica repens is an old plant in the literature of ground covers, but is little seen in this part of the country. It is very good. . . .It makes a neat, orderly but loose mat of low-lying slender stems, normally within the height area of an inch. The foliage is dark and lustrous. The clusters of white to pale blue flowers lie on the foliage mass, each flower to as much as a quarter-inch across, in May-June. It does in full sun or with partial shade, has no particular soil preference and should do at the edge of lawn where grass has difficulty.

For a touch of color in late winter, look for *Mazus pumilio*. This is a low creeper that mats close if not grown too lush. . . . The large, white-to-purple gaping flowers are held just above the light green foliage in late winter and spring, when the leaves deteriorate somewhat until the new growth surges in the fall.

Bellium minutum, a tiny alpine daisy, growing in flat lucent rosettes of long slender leaves, which coalesce quickly to form complete cover. The diminutive daisies from an eighth to a quarter-inch across, come in the summer. They are many, white with a rosy-lavender reverse and tip; slender stems 2 to 3 inches high. . . .

Imagine a Kenilworth-ivy in miniature. Place the image on the ground with the quarter-inch roundish leaves overlapping to completely cover and you have *Cymbalaria aequitriloba*, the gem of this group of carpeters. Be patient until warm weather and see the typical purple pencil-point flowers rising an inch above or bedding on the herbage like wee chitbirds with raised wings, poised to fly away. And this is no figure of speech since the plant is easily lost in too much sun or dryness or by failure in some formulary rite or communion. . . .

Potentilla cinerea, one of the cinquefoils, may be grown here with considerable satisfaction. It may trail too much for carpeting, especially in sandy ground or if there is much slope, or may tuft 3 to 4 inches. . . . It occupies the ground thoroughly and grows dense, with the yellow strawberry flowers resting on the light green mass. Give it all the sun you can as it fails to flower in proportion to the shade forced upon it. . . .

Mentha requienii, Corsican mint, minute throughout, in all its parts. The pale green herbage is fragile and easily lost in dryness or too much sun. . . . This is better used in a narrow crevice, in flagging or broken cement walk, where the moisture is sure, and where the crushed leaves may release the characteristic odor into the atmosphere of the garden.

The little "Whitecup" is of the nierembergias which are well known to gardeners as subshrubs in glorious and carrying shades of blue-purple. . . .*N. repens (rivularis)*, covers the ground in the sun as a turf of an inch and a half, spoon-shaped leaves, with raised fuzzy white flowers in the summer. It must have uniform moisture. Watch for slugs and control. . .

Crassula schmidtii (impressa) is a little succulent with a great deal of offer in the way of a close cover, an old plant in use, but always hard to find. If you can find but one shred of a mat it will look like a little aloe. Plant it out in the sun and watch it spread out into a delightful cover, reddish in the winter as to foliage, completely covered in summer with a mantle of bright crimson flowers. . . .

Roland Hoyt (†), landscape architect, Fellow, American Society Landscape Architects, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*, was editor, and contributed articles to *California Garden* over a period of 29 years, 1937–1966.

Pelargonium Parade

Spring 1950
June–July 1970

Alice M. Clark

A LOVERLY CLEAR PINK–'CAPRICE'
Photo by Fred A. Bode

(1950) As small boys are carried along by their seasons of kites, tops, and marbles, so gardeners pass from their breath-taking interest in flowering trees and daffodils, to an almost feverish enthusiasm over the colorful waves of bloom that flood the pelargoniums.

The name, *Pelargonium*, covers a large genus of the geranium family, but, in everyday parlance, it designates the large-flowered hybrids, also known as Show or Lady (Martha) Washington geraniums.

(1970) Instead of calling them Show, Lady Washington, or Regal, which reminds me of a lily, let's just use the name Pelargonium, which has a sonorous high-style sound suited to their beauty. To be correct, the variety is *P. domesticum*.

I became interested in this member of the geranium family about 25 years ago when I discovered Mr. Horner (Horner's Nursery). . . .Of course, they soon took over, obstructing instead of enhancing the landscape. What else can you do with fifty varieties and new ones teasing you? Aren't plant enthusiasts always a little bit balmy? Pelargoniums are happiest in the ground. I lacked the space and the physical ability to plant them there, but I could sit and pot, and pot, and pot until there were two hundred prodigies demanding attention. Their mobility allowed me to arrange color schemes as if they were paints on a palette. . . .

Geranium culture is simple. They will grow fast in any sunny spot near the coast, need partial shade inland. The soil does not need to be rich and they withstand our alkaline water. (I water my pots twice a week, more when it is warm.) Staking is a problem, but some varieties are effective in mounds. Feed a low nitrogen product when new growth starts. (Too much food means larger plants and less bloom.) Pick off spent flowers and cut back bare stems to where a second crop is forming. Spray regularly to guard against whiteflies. Later in the season watch for worms, picking off flowers they may have entered.

In late summer, when flowering is over, prune out weak or dead stalks and reduce length of branches somewhat. At that time take cuttings, about 3 inches long, just below a node. These will start in the ground where you want them. For container growing use potting soil right from the bag mixed with perlite for fast drainage. Insert four cuttings about an inch deep in the corners of a 4-inch pot. Sand may be used, but with soil the plants start growing when the roots are formed. Transfer well-rooted cuttings to a 4-inch pot and later to gallons. Bone-meal is good to add to the mix. Don't overpot. After two or three years pelargoniums usually get leggy and should be replaced with the young stock you have kept coming. I hope you enjoy growing pelargoniums as much as I do and don't go overboard!

Alice Clark (†), editor and editor emeritus of *California Garden*, was on the staff for 50 years, 1932 to 1982, as a contributor. Before becoming interested in pelargoniums, she was an authority on begonias and wrote a book, *Begonia Portraits*, which she illustrated with her own watercolor drawings.

GERANIUMS ADAPTED TO COAST CLIMATE

August 1936

The pelargonium or Lady Washington geranium is well adapted to a coast climate and La Jolla gardens are showing quite a few varieties and can well afford to specialize in its culture. A well grown specimen would resemble a choice Azalea shrub in bloom. The old flowers should be pruned off frequently and the plant kept in a bushy and compact form. . . . The pruning should be kept on the firm green wood and not on the light-colored hard and oldest wood.

You Would Like Tigerflowers

by Alfred C. Hottes

TIGRIDIA—by Alfred C. Hottes

Call them, Tigerflowers, Tigridias, Shellflowers, Flameflowers, or the Sacred-flower-of-the-Incas—by any name they are bizarre, surprising, and unique bulbs. And they, *Tigridia pavonia*, are easy to grow if you understand a few facts about them. Not new, they were introduced from Mexico and Central America. Europe knew them in 1576. . .

The flowers, related to Iris, have three prominent petals and a cup formed by three lesser petals. In color they range from deep red, carmine pink, orange, yellow, and white but most varieties are conspicuously spotted in the center. The leaves are swordlike and strongly plaited—that is, they seem as though they could be folded like a fan.

Blooms appear 75 days after planting. They are 5 to 7 inches in diameter. Each flower lasts but a day but emerge one after another from a green sheath for three or four weeks, generally in July. . . .

In Southern California the bulbs can be left in the soil for winter but when warm weather comes, it is wise to dig and divide them. But under no circumstances should they be dried and treated as a Gladiolus bulb. . . .

If the bulbs have been allowed to dry first, they are sure to suffer some loss. In bulbs which have been allowed to dry, the layers, one by one, form a dry starch, which must be thrown off by the bulb after planting. . . .This is why it takes so long for the average Tigridia bulb to start in the spring.

Proper storage in damp moss, at proper temperatures (not over 40° F.), brings the whole bulb, all layers, through the dormant period with very little loss and sprouting takes place in two or three weeks after planting.

When buying the bulbs be sure they are alive. Plant them in clusters of three to five bulbs. Set them about 4 inches deep. Each bulb is inclined to send up several stems so that when they are growing under proper conditions they propagate rapidly. . . .

Personally, I know of no bulb which has the exotic charm of the touch-and-go Tigridia. The sleepy heads in your family will never know the joy you will get by going out to the garden in the early morning to find one of these gorgeous silken blooms on plants where there seemed to be no sign of a bud yesterday.

Alfred Hottes (†), university professor, garden editor for *Better Homes & Gardens*, author of over 35 books on ornamental horticulture, became an artist in later life. He contributed drawings and articles to this magazine from 1946 until his death in 1955.

THE MATILIJA POPPY COVER

The matilija poppy drawing by A. D. Valentien, on the cover of the August 1909 issue of California Garden (the first magazine was published without a cover), was so outstanding it was used until March 1913. Mr. Valentien, "an artist who had the rare ability to make not only a picture for the artist but a workable drawing for the botanist," donated this drawing while he was engrossed in making Miss Ellen Scripps a series of water colors representing 1200 California native wildflowers. This series known as the "Valentien Paintings" are now at the San Diego Museum of Natural History. A.M.

AZALEAS

by Harvey F. Short

Azaleas, a splendid group of evergreen shrubs belonging to the rhododendron family are truly unequalled in the many types offered to us. The range of colors, the styling and size of the blossoms, the great variation in foliage from very small to very large leaves, all contribute greatly to the beauty of azaleas as landscape material, whether used as pot plants, mass plantings, tree types, espaliers or hedges. The growth habits extend from low compact forms up to the vigorous open growth of large specimens. A large variety of the popular members of the azalea family are now to be found in most nurseries. . . .

Culture

Culture of azaleas is not too difficult. They enjoy various soil mixtures leaning to the acid side. These may be leaf mold (redwood, pine, or oak) and light loam, but my best success through the years has been with two-thirds peat moss or all peat moss, with special attention to good drainage. Peat should *always* be thoroughly moistened before using.

Transplanting may take place any time, except when the new leaves begin to show and until they mature.

COOLIDGE GARDENS (PASADENA, CALIF.)
ARRANGED BY HARVEY F. SHORT

Harbingers of Spring

After that azaleas may be repotted even when in full bloom. In time, peat tends to sink a bit, so keep the base of the plant trunk a little high so that the original soil level will not be covered.

Three to four feedings of cottonseed meal or commercial camellia-azalea food from March to September serve well. Mix it into the top of the peat so it will not cake. One or two applications of stabilized iron chelates to counteract the action of salts and alkalinity in the general water supply of this area is a real necessity.

Watering is most important if good drainage is assured. Keep the plants moist but not stagnant. Never let azaleas dry out, especially when planting.

Prune to shape after flowering is over and follow up if necessary until July when the new buds set.

To control any pests, such as aphids and mites, give occasional light spraying of malathion at regular intervals during the growing season.

Gift plants of potted azaleas will do well if, as soon as convenient, they are transplanted to the garden or kept on in pots for patio display. If properly cared for, they will probably bloom again the same year. They do not thrive in indoor dryness and heat. Keep moist and outdoors as much as possible.

There are enough azaleas, as well as camellias, suited to our climate to make the gardens of San Diego rival those of the South. Once established, azaleas are little work to maintain and how they do light up the shade portions of the garden when in bloom. Out of season they provide fine foliage shrubs for the landscape. Planting azaleas is a labor that satisfies, an investment for years of beauty.

Harvey Short (†), hybridizer and horticulturist, was best known for his many camellia introductions, however, he also grew azaleas and shared his knowledge with readers of *California Garden* from 1954 to 1973. He was horticulturist for Huntington Gardens, Pasadena, California, for 6 years.

Pointers on Photographing Flowers

by Betty Mackintosh,
California Garden Photographer

MOST CALIFORNIA GARDEN readers, we believe, like to take flower pictures in color, so this article will be written with color film in mind. However, since black and white still has its uses, (i.e. far less expensive reproduction), we'll mention any particular differences.

The best of outdoor pictures are those taken early in the morning. They capture the subject at its peak of condition; there is less wind to contend with, particularly near the ocean; and the light is more interesting.

An Important Factor–Light

Since flowers are basically an outdoor subject, *use sunlight or artificial light resembling sunlight*; that is, one obvious source of light supplemented by shadowless light as from the dome of the sky. Color will require more supplementary light from near the camera than black and white does. This can be done with a white card or piece of aluminum foil reflecting light into the subject, and should not be so strong as to throw a shadow. Or a secondary diffused light may be used–with the same precaution.

Use the direction of the light. The old standard instruction of having the light come from over the photographer's left shoulder will give you good consistent pictures (exposure being correct), with good color and good roundness. You can do more than this, however.

Texture of petals or leaves, or on a larger scale, patterns of growth or planting, can be brought out by having the main light source far to one side. If your light is the sun, you will have to either move the subject or observe the time of day when the light falls across it–probably early morning or late afternoon.

If you want to emphasize the *outline of the subject*, backlighting, with a dark background gives a rim of light on all edges and a dramatic picture. You do have to reflect or add some light to the front of the subject unless you want a silhouette.

DO NOT take pictures in the middle of the day outdoors. An exception might be a vertical subject. In general, shadows directly under parts of a flower are not good and are difficult to do anything about with supplementary light.

Close-ups of flowers may be taken with a diffused light, like an overcast sky, with very pleasing results. In fact, white flowers and highly reflective ones are best done in this way. Some blue flowers will record with a truer color on present-day color film with diffused light.

Sisyrinchium bellum

Romneya trichocalyx

The diffused light under green netting like that used at the Southern California Expo at Del Mar is very good for flower photographs. The sunlight comes through, but with less severe shadows and enough diffusion so that fill-in light is generally not necessary. Flowers, with very few exceptions, do not reflect green light, so their colors will rarely be affected. Watch out for non-living material in the picture, however. It probably *will* be green.

If you want to get really sharp pictures, *use a tripod*. Few people can hold a camera absolutely still. With a tripod and no wind you can use a slower speed and smaller diaphragm opening (the larger the 'F' number the smaller the opening) thus increasing the depth of field or sharpness.

Check for Distracting Objects

Eliminate distracting objects from the picture area. In taking single flowers or arrangements, a plain background will be the least noticeable. You can use the sky, the ground, a stucco or wooden wall, or over-all shadow. If you substitute a blue cardboard for the sky, don't have shadows falling on it. If you use cloth for a background, don't have wrinkles in it. If you are shooting outdoors, avoid having the garden faucet in your picture, and change your viewpoint if the telephone pole across the street seems to be growing out of your subject. Keep vertical lines vertical if you can't avoid them, and keep the horizon horizontal.

About Exposure

With Kodacolor or Ektacolor, you have a fair amount of leeway in the matter of exposure, particularly on the over-exposure side. With black and white you can misjudge a little in either direction and still get a good print, but with transparencies or slides, *correct exposure* is a necessity.

If you have a camera with a built-in exposure meter, this should be fairly simple. However, as with a separate exposure meter, you have to learn by experience whether your equipment is based on reading the middle tones or the light tones of a subject. With my equipment, I like to take a meter reading of a Kodak grey card (corresponding to middle tones) placed at the subject, facing the camera. I decide on the slowest appropriate speed; then, for an average subject, set the F-stop according to the meter reading. If the subject or the background is dark, I increase the exposure by ½ stop. If either is particularly bright, I decrease the exposure by ½ stop. With black and white film, I generally decide whether the highlights or the shadows are the most important, and expose in that direction from the average.

If you do not have an exposure meter follow the directions on the printed sheet which comes wrapped around your film. Or, if it is a normal bright sunshiny day, your exposure for an average subject in the sunlight will be F16 at 1/ASA of the film. For instance, the ASA of Kodachrome II is 25, so your exposure with it in your

ROSE OF MONTANA, *ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS*

DROPS OF WATER ENHANCE A FLOWER PHOTO.

camera would be F16 at 1/25 of a second. This is an easy rule-of-thumb to remember in case something goes wrong with your meter. Subjects in shadow may require from 2 to 8 times this exposure. Take several shots with different exposures if you want to be sure. A very bright subject, or one surrounded by water or sand, will take a full stop less.

You may only wish to make a record, but if you do capture beauty on film, you will have prolonged its existence and its enjoyment.

Betty Mackintosh (†) was an outstanding professional photographer, who gave generously of her talent to *California Garden* for 12 years—1964-1976.

CHRYSANTHEMUM TEA

November 1931

The Chrysanthemum Tea given each fall by the San Diego Floral Association has become one of the most charming traditions in the social life of the city. Despite the rain the exhibit of locally grown Chrysanthemums, November 7 and 8, was well attended and an appreciative group enjoyed a talk by Milton Sessions [Kate Session's nephew] on the growing of this beautiful plant. Tea was served each afternoon and awards were given to the following:. . .

C.B.T.

BLOEM ERF

BANHOEK, STEIIENBOSCH
SOUTH AFRICA

July 1932

The Editor, *California Garden*

Dear Sir:

I was much interested to read in the March number of the *California Garden*, "Miss K. O. Sessions' notes on a new Gladiolus."

The early flowering form of *Gladiolus tristis* which is possibly the type, is certainly very attractive because of the extreme delicacy of its appearance. . .

Yours truly,
/s/K. C. Stamford

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Spring 1942

JACARANDA—How Do You Pronounce It?

The Jacaranda is a native in Brazil. The name is Portuguese, and in Portuguese it is pronounced zha´ka-ran-da´. . .

EWA

AVOCADOS

(Continued from Page 105)

colored, and very rich in flavor, ripening August to October. A variety to use if you suspect your location may be subject to more cold than you consider good for an avocado.

'Rincon' needs a warm location. The fruit is small, green, and ripens April to July.

'Zutano' has green, pear-shaped fruit, which ripens October to February. The tree is upright and will thrive in cool coastal locations.

IF you have the space and favorable climatic and soil conditions, plant an avocado tree and enjoy the tree and the fruit for years to come.

George James (†), was a nurseryman, horticulture instructor and lecturer, and a writer for *California Garden* from 1970 to 1983.

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A Primer for Bark Watchers

by Helen Chamlee (Witham)

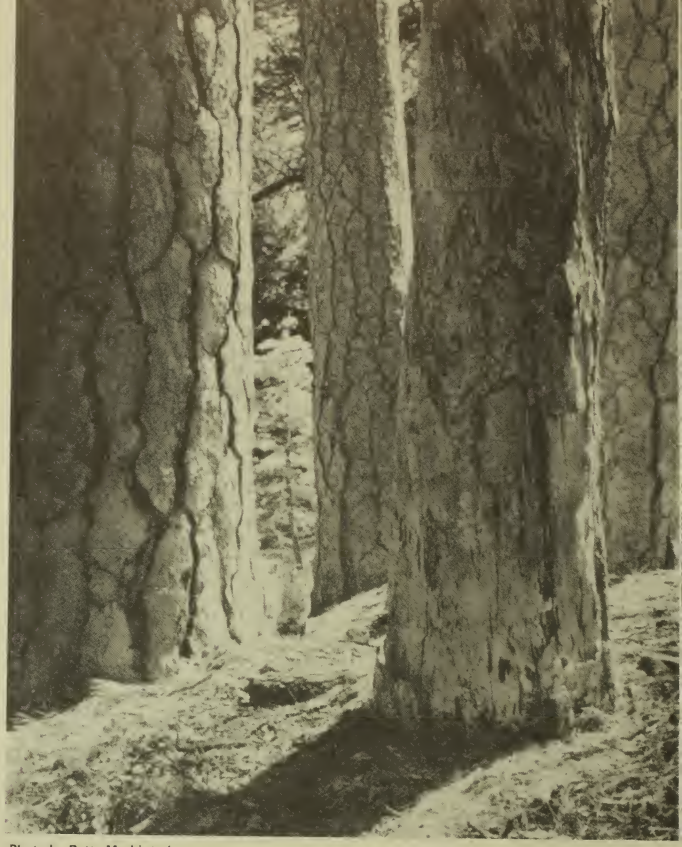

Photo by Betty Mackintosh

WE HAVE ALL BEEN looking at tree barks, and for a long, long time, else why would we have such widely used common names as Red Cedar, White Birch, Whitebark Pine, Shagbark Hickory, Paperbark Melaleuca? There is even a city named in honor of a tree bark. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, takes its name from the tree so-called by early French explorers because of the color of its bark and wood: the Eastern Red Cedar, *Juniperus virginiana*.

What is bark? The separable outer covering of trunks and stems and roots of woody plants. What are woody plants? Those having a central core of hard wood surrounded by a thin layer of growing cells, covered by a protective outer layer known as bark. Their trunks increase in diameter from year to year as new cells are added to the outside of the central cylinder, and they do not die back to the ground as in herbaceous plants.

One large division of the plant kingdom, the monocots, does not have true trunks in this sense. Neither do they have true bark by definition. The bamboos (which are grasses), the lilies and other bulbous plants, orchids, iris, bananas and palms fall into this category. Most of the palms and some members of other families, such as joshua trees and dragon trees, are trees in the sense of "having a single main stem (trunk), a definite crown, a height exceeding 8 feet, a trunk diameter of at least 2 inches." Then, there are the tree ferns, in which the "trunks" are leafstalks tightly bound together with tough interlaced fibers, and the bananas, which are merely very large herbs with the stout leaf petioles so tightly wrapped together as to appear as a single column. Slice one and it looks like celery, you could put cream cheese between the sections; you couldn't do this with a woody plant.

The monocots do not grow in the same manner as do the woody plants, in which new layers of wood are continually added around the outside only. Monocots have strands of fibers and columns of growing cells scattered throughout. A cross-section of a palm trunk re-

sembles a cornstalk. No annual rings are formed, hence there is no dependable way to determine the age of one of these plants. This accounts for such indeterminate statements as, "Joshua Trees are thought to attain great age," or ". . .the age of this tree is estimated as. . ."

In the true woody plants (most of our garden trees and shrubs as well as forest trees and scrub), the bark is built up by the cambium layer, the same growing layer that builds wood. Cells split off to the inside to form wood, to the outside to form bark. Bark thickness varies from skinlike fractions of an inch to as much as 2 feet in Redwoods. In some kinds of trees the bark continues to grow as the tree enlarges. This is true of the smooth-trunked trees such as the various figs, both the edible ones and the ornamental ones, which include Rubber Trees, Moreton Bay Figs and Banyans.

However, in most trees, and this goes for shrubs also, the bark fails to grow or "stretch"; it will split or crack, and sections will peel or flake off. The resultant ridges and furrows, the scales, shreds, flakes, or plates are endlessly interesting in their variety of texture and color. They vary from family to family and even from species to species. Your experienced woodsman can tell at a glance which kind of fir or pine he is looking at without seeing either needles or cones. The outside layers, which peel or flake or weather away bit by bit, usually consist of dead cells, but they give some protection to the growing part of the trunk by just being there. Further protection is given by a corky layer which is continually being formed to seal the cracks or splits as they occur and thus prevent the entrance of disease and insects.

Most of the words used in describing the appearance of a tree bark are self-explanatory, but "plates" may be new to you. The jigsaw-puzzle-like pieces on the Pines in the photograph are plates. These are characteristic of mature Ponderosa Pines. Younger trees of this species have an almost red-black bark fissured into narrow ridges.

This one and its near relative the Jeffrey Pine are the trees which will have you sniffing bark. Put your nose in a crack on the sunny side of a Jeffrey Pine on a warm day and you will smell—Vanilla? Pineapple? Gelatine? It will be a fruity fragrance far apart from the resiny scents we associate with pines. To be sure, you may find yourself glancing around to see whether the bystanders are thinking that perhaps you should be on a leash. But you may find them smelling pine trees, too, as a surprising number of people are "in the know." Join them, and add another dimension to your enjoyment of a trip to the mountains. The Ponderosa lacks this fragrance; it smells, if anything, just "piney."

Young trees of both species have a similar habit of growth; a like number of needles per bundle, almost identical in color; dark red-brown or brown-black bark with narrow ridges. Mature trees are fairly easy to distinguish because the large flaky plates of yellow, orange, or cinnamon brown on the Ponderosa are so different from the brown-purple narrow ridges on the Jeffrey. Also, mature trees will probably have old cones lying about. Jeffrey Pine cones are usually 5 to 8 inches long; those of Ponderosa, 3 to 5. And if they are 5 inches long? Which way to go? (Actually, they won't all be 5, they will be 5 up, or 5 down.) Try this: hold a cone in your hand, the prickles on the cone scales are pointed outward on the Ponderosa, tucked inward on a Jeffrey; the former feels prickly in the hand, the latter not so. If you can't decide whether it really feels prickly, try the bark-sniffing test. It doesn't always tell you, but when it does you feel you have done something–one of life's smaller triumphs!

Helen Chamlee (Witham) (†), was an authority on California native plants; wrote for *California Garden*, from 1965 to 1982, and was associate editor for 6 years. In 1979 she was elected Fellow, one of twelve, in the California Native Plant Society.

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Congratulatory Messages....

It is pleasant to reflect upon the 75th Anniversary of "California Garden." Continuous publication over this span of time indicates that the Editors and Contributors must be doing something that is essential for the horticultural community of San Diego. Congratulations, and best wishes for the future.
Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker

Congratulations to California Garden!
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To Lovers of Garlic

by Rosalie Garcia

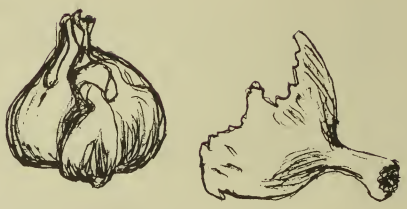
GARLIC IS FOR those who like it. It's not a cultivated taste—you either like it or you don't. Those who are fond of garlic find it enticing, fragrant, and delicious. The "anti's" who oppose it, do so with feeling and high emotion. To them garlic is repulsive, uncivilized, and even "un-American." The taste lingers for days, and it stinks. How can one little segment of a root of the genus *Allium* of the family of Amaryllis get so many lined up for or against it? No one can answer that. To certain peoples it is a part of their heritage, especially in the area of the Mediterranean, and in this country, those of Latin descent. But those of many other ethnic backgrounds are just as enthusiastic.

Legend has it that garlic is good for what ails you. Like peppers and spices, it is a stimulating agent that promotes the flow of digestive juices. Garlic is also thought to ward off bacterial diseases. Maybe the germs can't take it, and to this day, many take garlic dried in pill form for high blood pressure.

No food or seasoning goes further back in history than garlic, which is descended from a wild plant that still grows in marshy places all through the temperate zones of the Northern hemisphere. Primitive peoples discovered early the wild garlic and adapted it for medicine and seasoning, probably because of its strong odor and peppery taste. They did not have our discriminating, delicate taste buds.

Few eat garlic as a vegetable, although I have known a few children who carried the bulbs in their pockets and ate the cloves like peanuts. If their comrades complained that they stank—they did! In New Orleans, I knew a couple who had a shop in the French Quarter who had a garlic sandwich with their coffee every afternoon. They claimed they liked it and it was good for their health. I tried it, one clove thinly sliced in a lot of butter, but I did not think enough of it to make garlic sandwiches a habit.

But mainly, garlic is used as an herb for seasoning, and seldom more than two cloves to a recipe. Many Italian recipes start off with browning one or two cloves of garlic in some olive oil, then discarding the garlic. A roast can be rubbed with a cut clove and olive oil and some slivers of the garlic can be punched into the flesh of the roast. A wooden salad bowl can be rubbed with sliced garlic which is then tossed with the oil and greens. The garlic may be removed or left in the salad. A tool known



as a garlic press, in which cloves of garlic are placed, can be used to extract the juice of the clove, which is then used a few drops at a time in sauces or to rub on chops and steaks, giving just the right flavor. A few cloves added to a pot of beans or soup about an hour before they are fully cooked gives a delightful touch. To have on hand quick flavoring, a few cloves in a bottle of cooking oil or vinegar, will tone up salads and many sautéed foods.

Garlic is easy to grow. All you need is several bulbs or sets which can be purchased at a nursery or even the produce counter. Those bulbs on the seasoning racks are often too dry to come up easily. In late fall or early spring, separate the bulbs into the cloves, put the cloves base end down in rows in good garden soil, about two inches deep and keep watered. Flat leaves up to two feet will grow, and when they drop over and become sort of dry, pull them up, tie in bunches and hang where they can dry, then store in a dark dry place. This is the common *Allium sativum*, but Bailey lists about twenty other bulbous garlics of similar growth, varying in the color and number of cloves.

Growing in favor is *Allium scorodoprasum* or elephant garlic, because it usually makes only one large bulb, often as big as an onion, much milder in flavor, and good sliced in salads and sandwiches. I find that the flavor does not hold up in cooking.

Garlic flavors are also found in chivelike roots and send up grasslike leaves which carry the flavor. The more delicate one is known as garlic chives or Chinese garlic, *A. tuberosum*. (I think the old name *A. odoratum* was more descriptive.) It makes a pretty grassy clump suitable for borders of flower beds, sending up long stems with umbels of white flowers which also carry the odor of garlic. Chopped leaves are a mild seasoning in salads, sauces, sandwiches, and added the last minute to soups and cooked vegetables they are a delight.

A more sturdy variety of the garlic chives which has a lavender blossom, broader leaves and a stronger flavor and aroma is known as society garlic, *Tulbaghia violacea*. It is a favorite aphid repellant for gardeners. Aphids join garlic haters and will not remain in the vicinity of such clumps.

Seldom does one find these garlic chives on the herb counters—one must get in touch with garlic or herb collectors for starters.

To the garlic lovers, to whom this article is addressed—don't try to hide your love for this delectable herb. Grow it, cherish it, enjoy it and eat it! Garlic lovers will always stand apart from the crowd!

Rosalie Garcia, a writer for *California Garden* since 1964, is a flower show judge, and a lecturer on herbs, fruits, and vegetables.

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The Two Kinds of CHICKENS

(May 1912)

Just as there are two sides to every question, so are there two kinds of chicken—the Rosecroft kind and all the others. We know this and want you to know it, and what is more are willing to let you have some of the right kind, which of course is the Rosecroft kind.

In January we gave a man a hen, and he is willing to make affidavit that she laid 58 eggs in 60 days. This convinces us of another two things. First, that we did not realize how good our fowls were; and secondly, that we ought to have kept that hen.

Now we have about three or four dozen close relations of this female that we must part with to make room for young stock. They are yours at $2.50 to $3.00 each, and there may be among them a layer that can do 60 eggs in 58 days, which would entitle that hen to some cackle and her buyer to much Ha, Ha.

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Hazel Strehle
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Robinson's Thoughts....

Compiled by Allethe Macdonald
GRAFIC BY MARJ MASTRO

February 1910: Another topic of the hour, strangely enough, has a bearing on things floral, viz: the flying machine. After the successful flights of last month, no doubt some of the ever up-to-date San Diegans will be flying instead of motoring, and then the landscape gardener will have to do his work with an eye to how it will look from up above, so that the flying machine may lead to an improvement in our creations from the point of view the Gods take.

June 1911: The Lath House. Did you ever wash a hen and then regard the result before she could get dry or even merely damp in any section? Probably some of you have not even thought of laundering your poultry. So it is authoritatively stated that a hen, under these conditions, is the wettest, most forlorn-looking thing imaginable, and her eye expresses a disgust and alarm that no words can convey when she happens to look round and see what a mess she is in. That's how the average lath house looks now, after the good rains in January. . . . (Ed: A.D.R. raised prize-winning Barred Rock Chickens that he often exhibited at the State Fair in Sacramento, California.)

July 1911: With this issue *The Garden* enters upon its third year. . . .we shall continue to combat the barren wastes that accentuate the oases in San Diegan's gardens. We shall publish instructions for raising flowers issue by issue, so simple that he who runs may read, and we shall call a spade a spade and shove it in the ground wherever we see weeds. . . .

March 1912: The term "Horse Sense" is used because it means an extra concentrated brand of common sense, not because it tends to thoughts of stable manure, for 1912 promises to be a year when light fertilization will be in order. The end of February has come and still no rain, so that the owner of a garden who loves it at all will supplement faith in the dangerous doctrine of "there still is time, one year when we didn't have a drop of rain till the middle of March, etc., etc." with a strong dose of horse sense and face the situation. . . . *The Garden* wishes to throw out a few hints. In the first place, trees, shrubbery, and plants already established must be the first consideration. They must be irrigated. . . . A sane understanding of the principles of irrigation must be had for economical use of water, and strange as it may seem, the first requisite is to use enough when you use any. Before in these pages attention has been called to the utter futility of the hand-sprinkling method. . . .

January 1913: With whistle of the hoisting engine and tap of hammer, San Diego is daily adding unto herself, and the minor chords made by spade and rake are hardly to be heard in the chorus. Yet the gardens of the city must play no second fiddle if San Diego is to realize all her splendid possibility and be indeed a City Beautiful. . . .

March 1914: The work of the San Diego Floral Association and the *California Garden*, which is one and the same thing, is bearing fruit, so that he who runs can see the crop. All over the city, clubs, lodges and individuals are crying aloud. "Let us beautify San Diego for 1915." The awakening to the need of this is somewhat belated, for our gardeners are not Indian Yogis, who can grow a plant with flower and fruit from the seed while you wait. . . .

May 1914: The Grevillea avenue on the La Mesa road is well worth a visit at this time. The trees are a blaze of orange, most particularly effective where the road curves. Would that we had more curves on our desert of straight lines, and perhaps more Grevilleas upon them to make our vision golden just for a spring time.

May 1914 Editorial: Maybe the question of "to bond or not to bond," so far as the water question is concerned, will have been settled before this is published. Settled so far as the immediate present demands, but no one can look ahead without seeing that it is a recurring proposition, and it will only be done with, when every drop of water available is sanely and economically conserved and equitably distributed, then we shall probably turn to the supply in the ocean and seek ways and means to convert it to our use. The *California Garden* is vitally interested in the matter of plenty of water and further, cheap water, for the average man will not put any other kind on just plants and grass. . . .

October 1914 Editorial: We learn that the City Council is holding extraordinary sessions and straining every nerve to allow Tree Commissioner Klauber sixty dollars for the trimming of the trees on Fifth Street. It

is difficult to decide which most to admire, the Council for these efforts or Mr. Klauber for his persistency. On its appointment the Tree Commission asked for a working fund of one thousand dollars. Presumably since that time this amount has come down by gradation to this modest sixty, and it is something to know that there is a chance of its being allowed.

March 1916: Oh, have you ordered those tuberous begonias? It is not intended to go into the whole question of starting the tubers again this month, but you will not be allowed to forget that you should grow some.

February 1916: The crotons gave it up in despair (during a cold wet winter) and if these warmth-loving plants are to be used it seems as if they must be dug and potted each winter. Why bother with them anyway, the coleus are more brilliant and a hundred different color combinations can be easily raised from twenty-five cents worth of seed. By the way that seed ought to be ordered . . . .

March 1917: Luther Burbank has married. We don't dispute his right to do this and sincerely wish him all happiness, but what is moving in our mind is whether the fact will influence his work. It seemed almost indecent that a bachelor should be prying into all the intricacies of the marriage of flowers and trees officiating at the ceremony. We have always held a brief for the plant and dare to say that we expect the Wizard of Santa Rosa to find an added insight into the inner plant life through Mrs. Burbank.

March 1917: The Southern Pacific Railroad is advertising in the local press, and probably elsewhere, something over sixty thousand acres, all its patented lands in San Diego County, for eighty cents per acre. This sounds mighty cheap and ought to be an opportunity to some person with a swollen purse to own an Empire, using a favorite word. If we had the money we would buy it just to find out what sixty thousand acres that was only worth eighty cents an acre could be like and also to get in the middle of it and see if there we could do as we chose for five minutes; say, keep chickens (roosters included), cows, wear what we liked, swear whatever came into our head, and dig a great big hole. Where is this eighty-cent Empire?

June–July 1917: WE ARE AT WAR. This notice appears everywhere. . . The appearance of San Diego has been infinitely improved by the increased vegetables patches. . . Perhaps nothing so poetically expresses the fecudity of Mother Nature as luxuriant corn waving its banners in the breeze, and maybe out of this stressful time will come a broader conception of the garden that will really include all things pleasant to the sight and good for food.

December 1918: (On the cover under the date) printed in January, with February Suggestions

January 1919: Printed in March with April Suggestions [Ed: These two headings shows Mr. Robinson's sense of duty and a touch of humor even though his wife had died November 9, 1918. January 1919 was his last issue until April 1922, when he again was editor for three years.

March 1923: on lathhouse furniture: Before the wicker age I had a go at bamboo chairs, also a product of the ingenious East, they looked a part better than anything and the little tree frogs loved to housekeep in the hollow ends of the big pieces, much to the enlivening of visitors with nervous hands that strayed into these holes, but they were actually not fit to sit upon, they had no curve or line that fitted the human frame anywhere and they only lasted a season or two and were not cheap. Cement furniture might look all right when a bit weathered, but to sit on in summer when one has put off heavy underwear—never.

March 1924: We read in the daily press that Luther Burbank has come out strong for bobbed hair on women. He says in a short time they will wear no other and that it is the most beautiful fashion as it allows full scope to the shape of the skull hitherto hidden by puffs and rolls and knots. A few days afterwards another item said Luther Burbank was convalescing, but it did not specify from just what.

February 1925: When this is printed our only Miss Sessions will have started for Europe, and it shows our attitude of mind, that we are much more concerned for what she may think of Europe than for what it thinks of her, for she is a very fixed and dear quantity for us. The whole community is going with her in spirit, she takes along enough advice to make the League of Nations awake from the dead, and probably with her usual good commonsense will discard most of it before she clears from New York.

April 1928: A letter was mailed in Philadelphia March 5th by air mail asking whether Rosecroft (Begonia Gardens) would send a Begonia exhibit by air mail to the Show celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the Pennsylvania Horticulturist Society. . . . . .the Florest Review of March 29, prints this astounding notice: "California, faraway California, was with us. By air mail came begonia leaves and blossoms from the CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Now, who, what and where is the California Horticultural Society. . . Is it possible that Rosecroft is the California Horticulture Society, but we had to go to Philadelphia to discover it? Anyhow, I feel justified in remarking, "Now wouldn't that jar you!"

August 1928: I read that Mr. Blake [Ed: San Diego Weather Bureau meterorologist] says that July was quite normal, but I have been unable to make my Begonias realize it, they persist in the delusion that it was cool and have been very deliberate. Here it is August and lots of tuberous not even budded. . .

A VIEW OF

A. D. ROBINSON'S LATH HOUSE

The very first lathhouse in San Diego was built by Mr. Robinson, a nationally known begonia expert and hybridizer.

In each issue of *California Garden*, over a period of 20 years, Mr. Robinson included a feature on lathhouse growing, which so inspired gardeners that lathhouses became extensively used in landscaping planning.

January 1930: . . .but if Dr. L. J. Bailey (author of *The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*) can arraign this country for its lack of schools of horticulture and floriculture, I perhaps may take a fling at my piece for its lack of opportunities for training gardeners. There are few callings that demand a longer and more thorough training than gardening.... As many know I am by way of being a Begonia crank, and frequently young persons of both sexes ask to come and work with me for a few months, six is the favored period, to learn all about Begonias. No, they don't want any wages, just want me to give them an education. Of course, they are a good deal smarter than I am, but even so they can hardly expect to learn in six months that little I have picked up in 40 years.

October 1930: I surprise myself actually enjoying a bit of disorder, smiling at a lanky branch that is brazenly necking with a neighbor plant without reaching for that bit of string in my pocket.

[Ed: Mr. Robinson was a nationally recognized expert on begonias. He dispensed begonia culture as well as information on all facets of lathhouse growing in a feature 'Lath House Matters' in almost every issue for 25 years.]

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GARDEN FRAGRANCE AS GIFTS

October 1931

We often send the fragrance of our garden on journeys with our friends. We find it a lovely gift for one who does not see the color and beauty of the flowers.

We get some white organdy and have a dying [Ed: dyeing] party which the children love. We dye squares of the material many bright colors, then sew up dainty little bags. We put leaves of lemon verbena in yellow bags, rose geranium in the rosy ones, mint or mint geranium in the dark green ones, the leaves of apple geranium in the pale green ones, orange blossoms in the orange bags and lavender in the violet-colored ones. We tie each one with dainty ribbons and put one of each kind in a box. When they are opened, a New York apartment may be made as fragrant as your garden. H.B.B.

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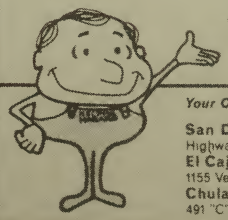

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